(e) an isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide sequence having at least 99% identity to the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;

(f) an isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2;

(g) an isolated polynucleotide having a polynucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide sequence having at least 99% identity to the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;

(h) an isolated polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2;

(i) an isolated polynucleotide with a nucleotide sequence of at least 100 nucleotides obtained by screening a library under stringent hybridization conditions with a labeled probe having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or a fragment thereof having at least 15 nucleotides;

(j) a polynucleotide which is the RNA equivalent of a polynucleotide of (a) to (i);

or a polynucleotide sequence complementary to said isolated polynucleotide

and polynucleotides that are variants and fragments of the above mentioned polynucleotides or that are complementary to above mentioned polynucleotides, over the entire length thereof].

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25. (Amended) An expression vector comprising [a] the polynucleotide sequence of claim 24, encoding a polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 [capable of producing a polypeptide of claim 1] when said expression vector is present in a compatible host cell.

26. (Amended) A process for producing a recombinant host cell which comprises the step of introducing [an] the expression vector [comprising a polynucleotide capable of producing a polypeptide of claim 1] of claim 25 into a cell such that the host cell, under appropriate culture conditions, produces said polypeptide.

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(Amended) A recombinant host cell produced by the process of claim 3.

(Amended) A membrane of a recombinant host cell of claim 4 expressing said polypeptide.

(Amended) A process for producing a polypeptide which comprises culturing a host cell of claim 5 under conditions sufficient for the production of said polypeptide and recovering said polypeptide from the culture.

Please add the following new claims:

(Newly Added) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 1 consisting of the polynucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

(Newly Added) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 1, comprising a polynucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2.

(Newly Added) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 1, encoding the polypeptide consisting of the polypeptide set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

14. (Newly Added) An isolated polynucleotide with a nucleotide sequence of at least 100 nucleotides obtained by screening a library under stringent hybridization conditions with a labeled probe having the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

15. (Newly Added) An isolated polynucleotide which is the RNA equivalent of the polynucleotide set forth in claim 2.

16. (Newly Added) An isolated polynucleotide which is the RNA equivalent of the polynucleotide set forth in claim 12.

17. (Newly Added) An isolated polynucleotide sequence complementary to the isolated polynucleotide set forth in claim 2.

18. (Newly Added) An isolated polynucleotide sequence complementary to the isolated polynucleotide set forth in claim 12.